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RICKY LEONARD MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

FANNING THE FLAMES

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIM

*God wants to know you and talk with you. He wants you to have his peace. But **all have sinned** and come short of God. This is how **God demonstrated that he loved us**: he sent Jesus to pay the price for us. Why did Jesus have to die for our sin? Because **the wages of sin is death**. Jesus died the death penalty instead of us. What do you have to do? Make Jesus Lord of your life and believe that he died on the cross and **was raised from the dead for you**; Then say with your mouth you believe! Pray: "I believe in Jesus. Take my life and do something with it." That's it!*

PARTNER WITH US

PREACHING THE GOSPEL ALL OVER THE WORLD, WE SEE MIRACLES AND HEALING EVERYWHERE WE GO!

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The Season of Thanksgiving *by Sarah Leonard Rackley*

I love the season of Thanksgiving. But really, as believers in Christ, we should be thankful every day. Paul challenged believers, "in everything give thanks." (I Thes 5:18), and also, "Be careful for nothing *(don't worry); but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil 4:6) in fact, being thankful is referred to in the Psalms more than 30 times. It's clearly the lifestyle God desires for us as his children.*

I make it a habit every morning to be thankful for something. It can be as simple as praying "good morning Lord, thank you for my life. Thank you for this day. Thank you that I pray and know that you always hear me."

I have begun the habit with my 2 year old as a part of his bedtime to be thankful together. I ask him "tell me something good about today." Sometimes I get a lot from him and sometimes nothing. I rehearse with him the day's events and point out all the good and positive things. Then we pray together and thank God.

I have learned that the best way to remove a foothold for anxiety or depression is to thank God immediately—in the middle of the sad or hard times, or as soon as disappointment strikes. As soon as I have a moment to

The Season of Thanksgiving

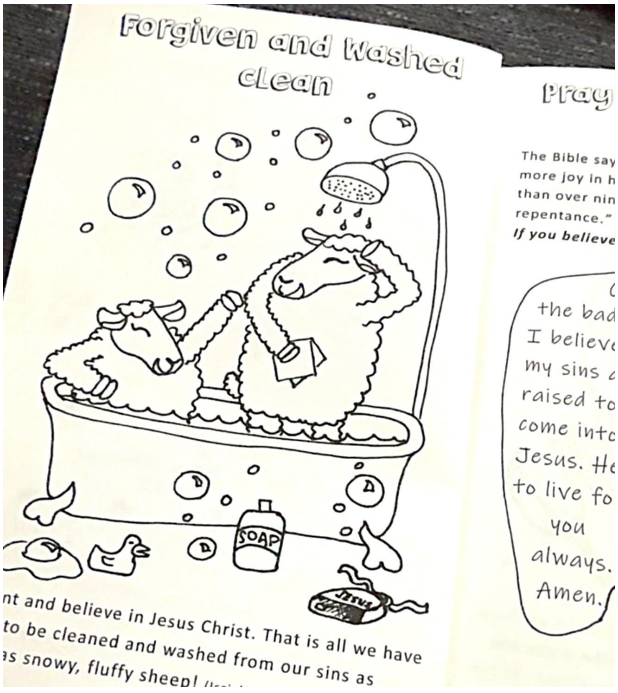
think about whatever has happened, I will search for the good. Instead of nursing negative, worrisome, anxious, fearful, or angry thoughts, I make a choice in that moment to trust God, walk in love, and be thankful. It is a habit that improves with practice. I'm certainly not perfect, but there is a marked difference in my attitude, in my prayer life, and in my relationships with others when I choose to live this way.

The thoughts that used to dominate my mind when I was living in depression were very negative thoughts about myself. God healed me of that by teaching me how He sees me. Now when thoughts of failure run in my mind, I choose to thank God. Instead of talking bad about myself I thank him for thinking enough of me to trust me with my family and the work of the ministry. I thank him for my relationships with others. Sometimes, the only thing you can think of to be thankful for is the redemption that you know God is going bring to the situation. So I thank Him for the hope and the promise, and I say "I trust you, Lord, to turn it around."

Take this season of thanksgiving as a reminder to live a life full of gratitude and give thanks to God all day long. Then you'll see how it turns your attitude from mourning into praise! The prophet Isaiah told us that Jesus came "to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." Every time we choose to thank God, we wear that beauty, joy, and praise!

Monthly Podcast

Becoming the Victorious Church



This coloring book is 8 pages with each page describing the gospel and how to receive Jesus. We are making the "Jesus Loves Kids" coloring book available for our partners to give as stocking stuffers or gifts for Christmas. We are asking $2.00 donation to cover the shipping and production.